

Focus Area 16: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

Objective 16-10a targets a reduction in low birth weight (LBW) births less than 2,500 grams to a rate of 5.0 per 100 live births (5.0 percent).

A total of 32,853 LBW births were reported in 2000, at a rate of 6.2 percent of all live births based on data extracted from the Birth Statistical Master Files (Figure 16-10a, Table 16-10a). A total of 37,653 LBW births were reported for 2005 at a rate of 6.9 percent, a statistically significant increase. California's LBW birth rates are significantly higher than the HP2010 objective, and the overall trend in LBW rates is increasing away from the HP2010 target of 5.0 percent.

Data by race-ethnicity show that the highest LBW birth rates were found for African Americans/Blacks (a statistically significant increase from 11.8 percent in 2000 to 12.8 percent in 2005). The Multirace population experienced the next highest LBW rates in three of the six years examined (7.2 percent in 2000, 8.1 percent in 2003, and 7.8 percent in 2005), followed by Asians (7.5 percent in 2002 and 7.4 percent in 2004). As of 2005 this HP2010 objective is not being achieved for any racial or ethnic population, and trends in LBW rates are significantly increasing away from the target.

Examined by age of the mother, LBW birth rates were highest for those under 15 years (10.1 percent in 2005), followed by those aged 35 years and older (8.6 percent in 2005). The HP2010 objective of 5.0 percent is not being achieved for any maternal age group as of 2005, and trends in LBW rates are significantly increasing away from the target.

Low birth weight rates were significantly higher for female infants than male infants across the time period 2000-2005. Trends in LBW rates for both female and male infants are significantly increasing away from the HP2010 target.

For more information on low birth weight (LBW) in California, visit the Maternal and Child Health Branch Web site at:

<http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 16-10a please visit:

http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#_Toc494699661

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od16.htm#riskfactors>

Figure 16-10a
Low Birth Weight (less than 2,500 grams) Live Births
California, 2000-2005

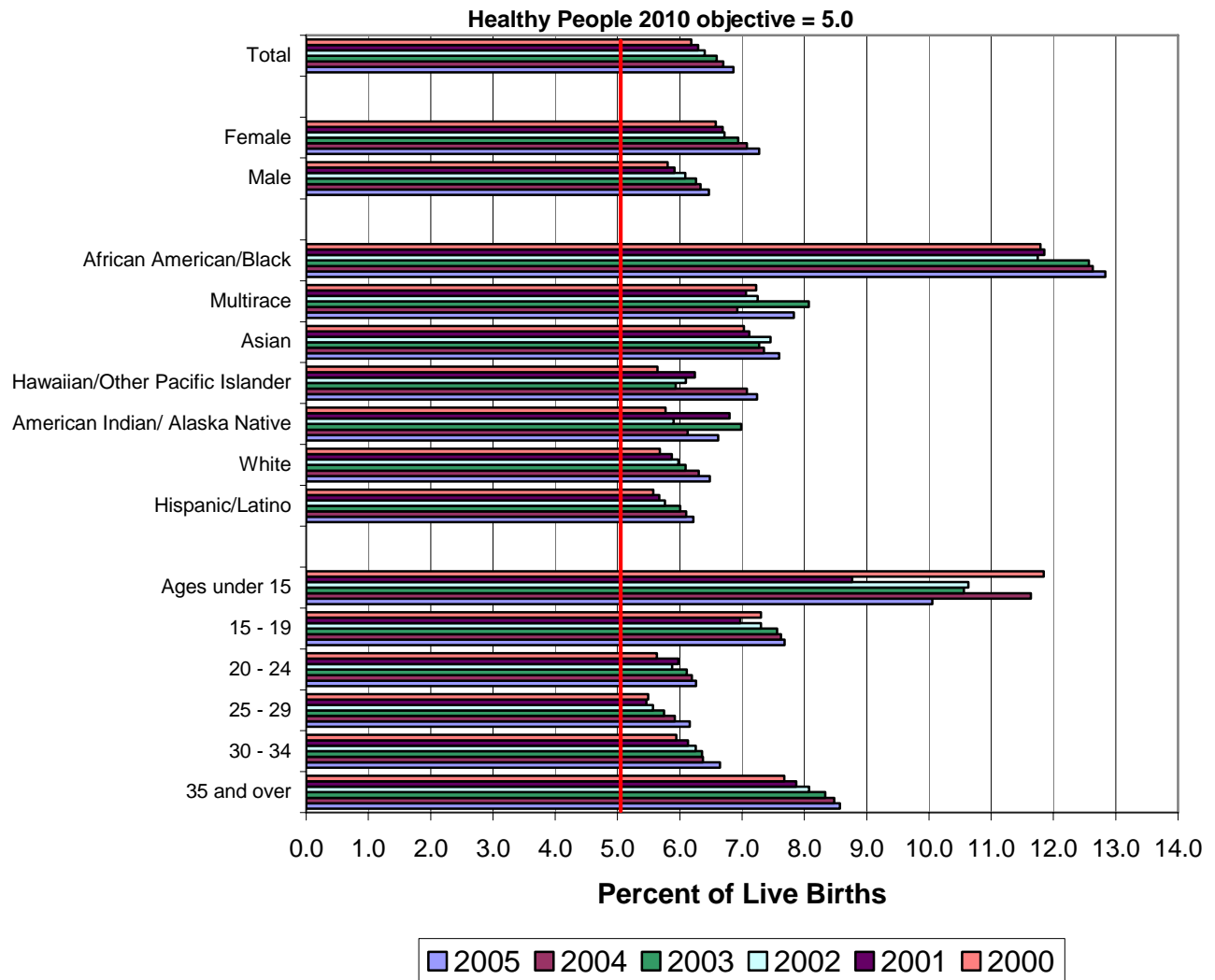


Table 16-10a: Low Birth Weight Live Births
California, 2000-2005

HP2010 Objective 16-10a	2000					2001				
	LBW ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴	LBW ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴
Healthy People 2010 Target			5.0					5.0		
Statewide Total	32,853	531,285	6.2	6.1	6.3	33,196	527,371	6.3	6.2	6.4
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	3,809	32,302	11.8	11.4	12.1	3,670	30,965	11.9	11.5	12.2
American Indian/Alaska Native	114	1,975	5.8	4.7	6.8	135	1,986	6.8	5.7	7.9
Asian	4,138	58,876	7.0	6.8	7.2	4,088	57,443	7.1	6.9	7.3
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	134	2,376	5.6	4.7	6.6	147	2,355	6.2	5.3	7.2
Hispanic/Latino	14,377	257,958	5.6	5.5	5.7	14,796	260,996	5.7	5.6	5.8
White	9,552	168,233	5.7	5.6	5.8	9,616	163,777	5.9	5.8	6.0
Multirace	452	6,254	7.2	6.6	7.9	451	6,388	7.1	6.4	7.7
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	106	895	11.8	9.7	14.0	71	810	8.8	6.8	10.7
15 - 19	4,043	55,373	7.3	7.1	7.5	3,693	52,966	7.0	6.8	7.2
20 - 24	6,904	122,591	5.6	5.5	5.8	7,367	123,227	6.0	5.8	6.1
25 - 29	7,669	139,615	5.5	5.4	5.6	7,454	136,439	5.5	5.3	5.6
30 - 34	7,580	127,502	5.9	5.8	6.1	7,845	127,946	6.1	6.0	6.3
35 and over	6,551	85,309	7.7	7.5	7.9	6,766	85,983	7.9	7.7	8.0
Sex of Child										
Female	17,052	259,217	6.6	6.5	6.7	17,260	258,121	6.7	6.6	6.8
Male	15,795	272,061	5.8	5.7	5.9	15,927	269,237	5.9	5.8	6.0

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2000-2001.

NOTES: ¹ Low birth weight (LBW) defined as live birth weighing less than 2,500 grams.

² Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths.

³ Rate per 100 live births (percent).

⁴ Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.)

Table 16-10a: Low Birth Weight Live Births, continued
California, 2000-2005

HP2010 Objective 16-10a	2002					2003				
	LBW ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴	LBW ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴
Healthy People 2010 Target			5.0					5.0		
Statewide Total	33,859	529,241	6.4	6.3	6.5	35,659	540,827	6.6	6.5	6.7
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	3,502	29,806	11.7	11.4	12.1	3,672	29,211	12.6	12.2	13.0
American Indian/Alaska Native	116	1,966	5.9	4.9	6.9	140	2,004	7.0	5.9	8.1
Asian	4,427	59,376	7.5	7.2	7.7	4,476	61,525	7.3	7.1	7.5
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	147	2,411	6.1	5.1	7.1	143	2,409	5.9	5.0	6.9
Hispanic/Latino	15,152	263,022	5.8	5.7	5.8	16,196	269,691	6.0	5.9	6.1
White	9,649	161,470	6.0	5.9	6.1	9,926	162,920	6.1	6.0	6.2
Multirace	494	6,813	7.3	6.6	7.9	574	7,112	8.1	7.4	8.7
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	79	743	10.6	8.4	12.8	75	710	10.6	8.3	12.8
15 - 19	3,667	50,200	7.3	7.1	7.5	3,731	49,330	7.6	7.3	7.8
20 - 24	7,232	123,056	5.9	5.7	6.0	7,567	123,815	6.1	6.0	6.2
25 - 29	7,646	137,236	5.6	5.5	5.7	8,080	140,556	5.7	5.6	5.9
30 - 34	8,158	130,367	6.3	6.1	6.4	8,572	134,809	6.4	6.2	6.5
35 and over	7,077	87,639	8.1	7.9	8.3	7,634	91,607	8.3	8.2	8.5
Sex of Child										
Female	17,387	258,855	6.7	6.6	6.8	18,311	263,882	6.9	6.8	7.0
Male	16,466	270,378	6.1	6.0	6.2	17,339	276,933	6.3	6.2	6.4

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2002-2003.

NOTES: ¹ Low birth weight (LBW) defined as live birth weighing less than 2,500 grams.

² Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths.

³ Rate per 100 live births (percent).

⁴ Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.)

Table 16-10a: Low Birth Weight Live Births, continued
California, 2000-2005

HP2010 Objective 16-10a	2004					2005					2000-2005 Trend ⁵
	LBW ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴	LBW ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴	
Healthy People 2010 Target			5.0					5.0			
Statewide Total	36,481	544,635	6.7	6.6	6.8	37,653	548,700	6.9	6.8	6.9	Sig. +
Race-Ethnicity of Mother											
African American/Black	3,622	28,679	12.6	12.2	13.0	3,691	28,756	12.8	12.4	13.2	Sig. +
American Indian/Alaska Native	127	2,073	6.1	5.1	7.2	140	2,116	6.6	5.5	7.7	ns
Asian	4,566	62,122	7.4	7.1	7.6	4,690	61,735	7.6	7.4	7.8	Sig. +
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	180	2,543	7.1	6.1	8.1	183	2,528	7.2	6.2	8.3	Sig. +
Hispanic/Latino	16,797	275,188	6.1	6.0	6.2	17,588	282,823	6.2	6.1	6.3	Sig. +
White	10,023	158,992	6.3	6.2	6.4	10,107	155,900	6.5	6.4	6.6	Sig. +
Multirace	496	7,162	6.9	6.3	7.5	578	7,382	7.8	7.2	8.5	Sig. +
Maternal Age Group											
Under 15	81	696	11.6	9.3	14.0	76	756	10.1	7.8	12.3	ns
15 - 19	3,793	49,737	7.6	7.4	7.9	3,841	50,017	7.7	7.4	7.9	Sig. +
20 - 24	7,701	124,309	6.2	6.1	6.3	7,856	125,529	6.3	6.1	6.4	Sig. +
25 - 29	8,386	141,608	5.9	5.8	6.0	8,834	143,446	6.2	6.0	6.3	Sig. +
30 - 34	8,574	134,578	6.4	6.2	6.5	8,887	133,741	6.6	6.5	6.8	Sig. +
35 and over	7,946	93,707	8.5	8.3	8.7	8,159	95,211	8.6	8.4	8.8	Sig. +
Sex of Child											
Female	18,849	266,371	7.1	7.0	7.2	19,496	268,110	7.3	7.2	7.4	Sig. +
Male	17,624	278,305	6.3	6.2	6.4	18,148	280,578	6.5	6.4	6.6	Sig. +

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2004-2005.

NOTES: ¹ Low birth weight (LBW) defined as live birth weighing less than 2,500 grams.

² Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths.

³ Rate per 100 live births (percent).

⁴ Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.)

⁵ Statistically significant increase (Sig. +); not statistically significant (ns).